



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### BASIC 1961-62 SEASONS FOR DOVES AND BAND-TAILED PIGEONS ANNOUNCED

The framework of seasons and bag limits for mourning doves, white-winged doves and band-tailed pigeons, unchanged from a year ago, was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The open seasons were established after results of this year's mourning dove census were examined and suggestions of representatives of conservation organizations and interested State fish and game departments were considered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The mourning dove census showed the population down slightly from a year ago in the Eastern and Central Management Units and unchanged in the Western Unit. However, the overall population is still substantially up from the 1953 level when the national mourning dove surveys started. Information from the Southwest States indicates the white-winged dove population is at a good level compared to a year ago. They are hunted only in five States.

#### Mourning Dove

States which permit the hunting of mourning doves will have the opportunity to set seasons within the outside dates of September 1 through January 15, as follows:

In the Eastern Management Unit, which includes all States east of the Mississippi River and the State of Louisiana; 70 consecutive half days or two periods of equal or unequal length totaling 70 half days. Hunting hours are 12:00 noon (Standard time) to sunset. Limits, 12 per day and 24 in possession.

The Central Management Unit, which includes the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming: For all States except Texas, a season of 60 consecutive full days or two periods of equal or unequal length totaling 60 full days with shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Because of its large size, Texas again will have the opportunity to select for mourning dove hunting 60 consecutive half-days in each of two geographical areas. However, in 12 counties of the southern geographical area in which the hunting of both white-winged and mourning doves is permitted for a 3-day period in September, the mourning dove season shall run for only an additional 57 consecutive half-days beginning with the opening date of the 60-day season for the southern area. On the three part-days in September, shooting hours will be 2:00 p.m. (Standard time) to sunset. On all other days of the mourning dove season in Texas, shooting hours are from 12:00 noon (Standard time) until sunset.

In this unit, except for Texas and New Mexico, daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30 mourning doves, respectively. In New Mexico, the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate of both kinds, of which not more than 10 daily and 20 in possession may be white-winged doves. In Texas, the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate of both kinds, but no more than 10 daily and in possession may be white-winged doves.

In the Western Management Unit, which includes the States of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, seasons of 50 consecutive full days or two periods of equal or unequal length totaling 50 full days for mourning doves. Shooting hours, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. In all States except Arizona and California, the daily bag of mourning doves 10 and the possession limit 20. In Arizona, the limit of mourning doves 10 daily and in possession. In California, the limit of mourning and white-winged doves is 10 daily and in possession, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. In Clark County, Nevada, which has been added to the open white-winged dove hunting areas in this year, bag and possession limits of mourning and white-winged doves are 10 daily and 20 in possession, singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.

#### White-Winged Doves

White-winged dove hunting will be permitted in Arizona, New Mexico, certain counties of California and Texas, and Clark County, Nevada. In Arizona, New Mexico, and the open counties of California and Nevada, the season dates for white-winged dove hunting will be the same as those selected by these States for mourning dove hunting. Texas again will be permitted to select three separate part-days for the hunting of both white-winged and mourning doves in certain counties. In Arizona, the daily bag and possession limit of white-winged doves is 25. In the other open season States, the white-winged limits were discussed previously in connection with mourning dove limits.

### Band-Tailed Pigeon

Band-tailed pigeons are hunted only in Washington, Oregon, and California. Washington and Oregon again will be allowed to select 30 consecutive full days. California will again have 30 consecutive full days for each of two geographical areas. Outside dates for selections are September 1 through January 15. Shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset with daily bag and possession limits again 8 band-tailed pigeons.

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